#### HE IS SO PRODIGAL

Howard Fielding Discloses Some Christmas Plans.

#### SOME APPROPRIATE PRESENTS

For People Whom We All Know-A Most Excellent Exercise In Gencrosity Recommended,

ir rent, I often take an hour think of the great gifts I would make I had wealth. I generally wrap a ce of cloth around the ciapper of our ell so that people with bills can amuse hemselves without amoying others, ad then I sit with half-shut eyes and make everybody happy—in my mind.
Afterward I go out and buy a present for
Mande—something useful, something we can both use, as an umbrella, or an chair suited to a person six feet



o inches in height and so thin that he est depend for his comfort entirely

I am liberal, you see, in real life; but when I fall to dreaming there is really no limit to my generosity. I give to all the people who do not deserve it, and this requires a great wad of money. I bestow gold pieces upon our janitor, and the surprise kills him, and he dies very, very hard. This is one of my pleasantest funcies. The last time I pave him anything in reality it was a saif dellar, and I remember chasing him down three flights of stairs in or der to borrow thirty cents of it back to pay the iceman. But in the Christmas season of my dreams there is no cur-rency except red gold, and the beggar on Park row by night no longer bleases me for a plugged Canadian dime.

I go to my tailor and forgive him and settle his little bill. And when he re-

vers consciousness I order three hun-red dollars' worth of pantaloons, pay-g cash in advance. They are all made om one "messure," and as soon as om one measure, and as agon as ney are done I summon thirty poor nen, as miscellaneous in their deformi-r as a company of stage soldiers, hen each man selects the pair of autaloons which comes nearest to fit-ing him, and some of them go away

These is the object of such an institupry-and supehow the undeserving to a capacity for enjoyment which is ely found among the good. Take friend Jimmie, for instance. I see what Jimmie would like for a when present, and he shall have it when my dream comes true. What municipated it is a perpetual two-dollar and A lump of money would afford in no permanent satisfaction; he would probably lend it to some other poor sinner, and never get it back. He couldn't understand wealth, but he knows what it is to want-two "cases," and to get them and spend them, and then want them twice as hard the next lay. I will have a machine built for Jimmie, and at any hour of the day or night he shall be able to drop a tale of woe into the slot and get two sinkers. I have comparatively little knowledge of machines, but I think that a machine can be built strong enough to take in one of Jimmie's stories without getting seriously out of order. Perhaps it can also recrite his promise to pay without fail on the following Saturday and never start a givet; but I shall not ask the mechanic who makes it to guaran-



tee the machine in case Jimmie should

PLEASE BING THE BELL

his heart good to feel the honest, manly determination to prove his gratitude by prompt payment. But the first time be fees it the sun and moon will fall out of the sky. If the machine worked without the story and the promise it would be of no use to him; so they shall be essential because I wish to make him happy, as he hasn't been heretofore, I'm afraid; for, after all, you know, it isn't real good fun to be a bor rower when people are so stingy with

There is a man who always makes me pay his fare when we ride together en the slovated rend. I am going to give him a bushel of tickets. Of course I do not expect him to deposit any of them in the box, but I think it will gies him pleasure to have his pockets full of them when I step up to the window to buy for him and for myself. He gets a buy for him and for myself. He gets a great deal of fun, as it is, by following me up the stairs crying: "Let me get ton me up the stairs crying: "Let me get ton and able bodied hustling than that of job printing. The men who make successes in this department of trade are entitled to consideration and ought to be appreciated for their users and pluck. From a small, un-

theket seller always gives, especially to he has previously had the pleasure of rejecting my last dime on the ground that it has been bitten by a mosquito. Then I fold out my hand and take Mulberry bend nickles and flattened bul-lets and Chinese farthings at a pint and a half to the ceut, and fan tan chips and wampum till my pockets bulge out with the worthless stuff. All this the fellow who never pays his fare enjoys to a certain extent, but I want him to to a certain extent, but I want him to get even more fun out of it, so I shall give him the tickets. I would like also to do something for the ticket sellers, and I am thinking of giving each of them a quart of brass suspender but-tons, which can be readily passed as five-dollar gold pieces by men who have had as much practice as they have.

There will be a new chair in my office for him, at Christmas day. It will be stuffed with eider down and upholstered with sticky fly-paper, so that he cannot be led away by generous impulse. I am a very hard worker; it is not so hard, I think, for anybody else in this world to work. When I am engaged in finishing something which really must be done two or three days before—but, of course, I can't, and the Old Boy will be to pay about it—then my legs coil sinuously around those of the chair; my tongue hangs out, and buttons fall off my vest. I used to think that nothing could stop me at such times—not even the principles of English grammar. But I had never known McGarrahan and his stories in those days. He is due here now in five holstered with sticky fly-paper, so that those days. He is due here now in five minutes, and at least I must finish what I have to say about him before he arrives, otherwise I might be led to speak of him unkindly. He doesn't like my office chairs, poor fellow. He shall certainly have a new one at Christmas.

I shall buy \$13 umbrellas for my type-writer girl. Probably it will not rain on more days than that during the com-ing year. So she will have an umbrella to take out to lunch whenever she leaves hers at home, with the wind east, the sky overcast and the weather bulletins explicit for a clear day. I shall not tell her that the umbrellas are hers



A MANDPUL OF MULBERRY BEND NICKELS

thinks they are mine. I will have one ready every day, and I will request her to bring it back within fifteen minutes. She will, of course, leave it in the restaurant, or lend it to the young man who walts for her in the shelter of our know how many more umbrellas I have, for that would put a damper on her innocent mirth. No, she shall have just as much fun as in the past, when I had only my wife's umbrella (and forgiving spirit) to depend upon.

There is a man who lunches with me

almost every day, upon whom I would like to bestow some token of my regard. His front name is Billy and, judging by the way he eats, I should say his last name ought to be Goat, but he travels under an alias. On alternate days I pay for the lunch. That seems no more than fair. On the other days he matches quarters with me to see who shall pay, and he "sticks" me with a regularity which I hesitate to ascribe to chance. I hardly know what to give this friend. It would seem as if so thrifty a man could require nothing.
If there is anything he wants, why
doesn't he go and match quarters for it?
I might give him an invitation to lunch I might give him an invitation to lunch with somebody else, but that would not express my real feelings toward him. He is an entertaining fellow, and he abstains from paying for things on principle and not from meanness. Why should anybody pay for anything when there are "soft marks" like me born every minute? I will give him a bothle of old Dr. Manhattan's perpetual appetitus. tan's perpetual appetizer. I will give him a quarter with two heads on it and dated oddion one side and even on the other. He fills his place in the economy of mature. Yes, it is certainly in the economy department that his place is found.

I would remember all such fellows as Billy. They are the men who can be made happy by a present. They can appreciate the advantages of acquiring property in that way. Nature furnished them with this appreciation, and if we others have anything left after they get through, we should give them a part of it. Why should we give to the generous man—to the giver. Do we send our watches to the black smith? Certainly not; we send them to the pawnbroker. He knows what to do with them; he has probably had them before. Let us, in like manner. bestow our Christmas gifts upon the person who knows how to take, who is an expert at it, who takes everything in sight. This will be a good exercise n generosity, and after you have done it once or twice, the really deserving may stand a chance of getting some thing out of you.

HOWARD FIELDING. THE TRICK OF SUCCESS

Is to See Something That Some body Else Hasn't Been.

In these days of close competition when you can see the steely glitter of "schemes" in the eyes of business men who are straining every fiber to gain commercial success, it is almost a mar-vel when a firm has succeeded in reaching the top of the ladder. Many are failing every day; some worry along from week to week and year to year and never fail or never can succeed. If they only would fail it would be a shappy and righteous relief to men of

merit who ought to get to the front.

press room is well lighted, convenient, and admirably adapted for an ideal printing establishment. Every im-provement that might add to the exrelient facilities already possessed are

forthcoming.

There are recognized styles in type as well as in other lines. Few people know this. They should be more care-ful in this—as they are in their dress. This company makes a business of have had as much practice as they having type appropriate to every class of work and always strive to "keep up with the procession." Their facilities in to tell me stories while I am at work. ment is capable of turning out large contracts on as limited notice as many of the largest concerns in Chicago The Stanton Printing company emfour, with one salesman on the road constantly, and a city solicitor who finds Grand Rapids alone an excellent field for his labors.

Besides supplying a large book and and catalogue trade in all parts of the United States, the special aim of this firm is to furnish a good grade of rehable commercial printing to city

buyers.
"Every-day" printing is what is wanted by the majority. They furnish it—and as quickly as the customer needs it. This is a great thing to peoneeds it. needs it. This is a great thing to people who are always in a hurry—and everybody is about their printing. This is one of the secrets of this company's success, who have invariably made it arule to give the buyer what he wants, the way he wants it and as quick as he wants it.

Their line of holiday novelties for Christmas and New Year is complete. Their latest novelty, comparatively un-known in this city, that of fine em-bossed work, is becoming very popu-lar. The fine results attained in this style of fine printing commend its use to lovers of clean, effective printing. We would call special attention to the fact that the business offices are pleas-antly situated on the ground floor, and are admirably furnished in metropoli-

Voigt, Herpolsheimer & Co., Jobbers of dry goods, furnishing cods, carpets, cloaks and notions.— Manufacturers of shirts, pants and overalls.—Nos. 48, 50 and 52 Ottawa

Grand Rapids is now, and with a deep water channel to the lakes, will become more than ever the grand base of sup-plies for all northern and western Michigan. This is because it is and always will be much cheaper and more always will be much cheaper and more convenient for the merchants of those regions to replenish stocks here than to make extended journeys to Chicago or more distant points and spend time and money with no compensating advantages. A prime factor in bringing about this state of things is the famous firm of Voigt, Herpolsheimer & Co. established twenty-two years ago, the enterprising and far-sighted proprietors of two leading houses—one wholesale, the other retail, The latter, an extensive and popular dry and fancy goods and carpet house, is situated on Monroe street and controls a very large share of local

controls a very large share of local patronage. One concern, however, is with the jobbing and manufacturing departments, which occupy the great four-story brick structure, 66x100 feet in superficial area, Nos. 48, 50 and 52 Ottawa street. Some idea of the amount of business transacted by the firm may be formed from the statement that they have invested on an average \$250,000 and that the immense structure just described is crammed from basement to garret at all times with seasonable dry goods, furnishing goods and notions purchased in the eastern markets and imported expressly for their jobbing trade, which covers all of northern and western Michigan, the upper penin-sula included. They are also largely interested in the manufacture of shirts, pants and overalls for the same trade. which they supply on the most liberal terms and at figures as low as can be found elsewhere. Their salesrooms are always crowded with well-pleased buy-ers during business hours, and their

nundred employes are kept hustling to fill orders. Gypsum Plaster and Stucco Co. James B. Hubbell, president and treasurer; Frank L. Noble, secretary and general manager—manufacturers of calcined and land plaster—Principal office, No. 26 New Aldrich building:

Chicago office, No. 1307 Masonic temple; mills and quarries at Grand-ville, Mich., on C. & W. M. railway. The gypsum deposits of this vicinity are among the most extensive known, and on account of their superior qual-ity and central location are extremely valuable, but there is no question that by deepening the Grand river channel sufficiently to allow its navigation by would tend to encourage and further develop this industry. And those inter-ested in the mills and quarries adjacent to the river are enthusiastic in commendation of the agitation looking to the improvement referred to. Among pioneer leaders in the working of the gypsum beds hereabout was the Upion Mills Plaster company, founded many years ago, whose mills, situated at Grandville, have long been celebrated for the superiority of their output, and near the close of the year 1891, finding their capital too limited to vigorously prosecute and meet the demands of a rapidly growing business, concluded to reorganize and accordingly effected arrangements with outside capitalists by which the plant and business was sold December 23 of the same year to a new corporation entitled the Gyp-sum Plaster and Stucco company. The

principal stockholders of the old company retaining a large interest and the management unchanged. This company remodeled, enlarged and refitted the mills with new and improved ma-chinery, put 100 men to work, and with the introduction of new methods so improved upon the quality of its product as to warrant and justify its laim of superiority over the product of any other mill in the valley. The quarries, which adjoin the mile, are the property of the new company, produce the finest quality of pure gypsum, and are practically inexhaustible. A switch from the Cincago & West Michigan railroad furnishes excellent shipping facilities, while the company's own wharf, near by, will prove a valuable adjunct when the big boats arrive. The capacity of the works as they now stand is 35,900 tons of the highest grade stucco and land plaster, and the production can be increased indefinitely, with the increase of de-mand. Forming as it does an indis-pensable base of adamant and all other fire-proof wall plaster which are used in all large cities, and the new plaster consumed in immense quantities as a fertilizer, there is no difficulty in finding a market. Much of this company's plaster is shipped to

EDISON AND THE PHONOGRAPH.

low the "Wizard" Came to Invent the Wanderful Instrument.

hundred electrical inventions have made Thomas Alva Edison the most cele-brated inventor of his time. His phono-graph is the wonder of the world, and one of the few inventions which envious and of the few inventions which envious and disappointed rivals have not charged Edison with having stolen. In fact even his bitterest competitors for fame, all of whom appear to harbor the idea that it is their due to detract from his reputation for genius and honesty, as a rule concede that Edison did really invent the phonograph. How he came to invent it is a most interesting story. Here it is as it was told to me by a he came to invent it is a most interesting story. Here it is as it was told to me by a well known electrician not long ago: "Many years ago," said my informant, "when Edison was still at Menlo Park, and working night and day for fame, he de-

working hight and day to take the telephone and undoubtedly did more than any other inventor to make it practical by introducing the carbon plate into the transmitter. While experimenting on disphragms for the telephone Edison had constructed a number of small sheepskin drumheads, to test their value as disphragms as compared with metal and other substances. To some of these sheepskin disphragms he To some of these sheepskin diaphragms he had attached a small metal needle, which was intended to project toward the magnet and assist in conveying the vibration caused by the human voice. The sheepskin diaphragms did not fulfill Edison's expectations and he discarded them, and, as usual with appliances he decides to be useless, they were thrown aside to be removed with other rubbish.

"His assistants soon discovered that by

with other rubbish.

"His assistants soon discovered that by holding the sheepskin disphragms in front of their mouths and emitting a guttural sound between the lips a peculiar noise approaching music could be produced. It was something similar to the alleged music produced by covering a comb with thin paper and humming a tune on it. In passing one of the men engaged in playing on a diaphragm one day, Edison playfully attempted to stop the noise by touching the projecting metal pin with his finger, and no sooner had he done so than he gave one of his peculiar starts. "Eh, what's that!" of his peculiar starts. 'Eh, what's that' said he, which so astonished the performer that he dropped the diaphragm. 'Do that again,' said the 'wizard,' and it was repeated, and again his finger touched the pin, to his evident delight. He went about pin, to his evident delight. He went about for some time asking one after another of his assistants to hum or sing against the diaphragm, and finally he got them to talking against it, he all the time touching the pin lightly with his finger.

"I have it,' said he finally, and he retired to his den and commenced drawing diagrams for new machinery, which his assistants speedily made, and a few days.

assistants speedily made, and a few days later the first phonograph was put to-gether. It was a crude affair, the pin making an impression on wax, and it talked imperfectly, but it did well enough to show Edison that he was on the right track, and he rapidly improved it, until now it is very nearly perfection. A hundred men might have feit the vibration of that pin attached to the piece of sheepskin, but it took an Edison to instantly realize that the vibrations might be made to in-dent a soft substance and be susceptible of reproducing the exact sounds of the human voice that caused different vibrations. The phonograph was regarded as a toy at first, t later it sold for \$1,000,000."-New York Herald.

Why Epidemics Come It has been asserted in a medical journal that after Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria, died of typhoid fever at Windsor castle in 1961 the discovery was made that there was an open cesspool directly underneath the room which he occupied. Whether or not this circumstance was the cause of the prince consort's fatal illness, it illustrated the fact that only thirty years ago the world had not learned the most elementary lessons of cleanliness in life.

It is not many years indeed since epidemics caused to be regarded as "visitations of Providence," and practically nothing was done to prevent their recurrence. The It has been asserted in a medical journal was done to prevent their recurrence. The simple truth is that this "Providence" visits the unclean with pestilence much oftener than it does the scrupulously

even at this day, when the virtue of clean-liness is more widely recognized than ever before, is due to the toleration of flith!

Thousands on thousands of dwellers up-on farms or in small villages in the counon farms or in small villages in the country permit daugerous nuisances about their premises such as neglected vaults under the windows of sleeping rooms, cellars unventilated and containing decaying regetables and fruit, sink drains emptying close by doorways, stables too near the houses, or wells within filtering dis-tance of stables.

The people who tolerate these nuisances only too often have to pay the penalty in typhoid and other fevers, diphtheria and filth diseases of various kinds. In many country districts which should be almost perfectly healthy fevers are shockingly prevalent, and generally they are traceable to domestic nuisances of this kind. -Youth's Companion.

Theories About the Oceans.

At a meeting of the French Geological society M. Transchold, of Moscow, Russia, read a paper entitled, "Noninvariability of the Level of the Ocean." It terminated with the following curious and interesting

In proportion as certain parts of th earth's crust rise from the bottom of the sea above its level the latter must be low-

The surfaces of nearly all the continents and islands have at one time formed por-tions of the ocean's floor. They have risen from the water partly because of the retreat of the waters.

As continents are formed one part of the waters of the seas is transported to them in the form of lakes, rivers, eternal snows. glaciers and organized substances. Owing to these actions the waters of the oceans have been constantly diminishing and their evels lowered correspondingly.

In proportion as the earth cools down ice

accumulates near the poles and on the tops of mountains, water is taken more deeply into the surface of the terrestrial crust, the formation of hydrated minerals being manfested everywhere. The result of these conclusions is that

duce all the water that ever existed may still exist in the form of perpetual lee, snow, hydrated minerals, etc., the waters of all oceans have been gradually disappearing, and that the lowering of the cceans is going on even at the present day and faster perhaps than ever before. -St. Louis Republic.

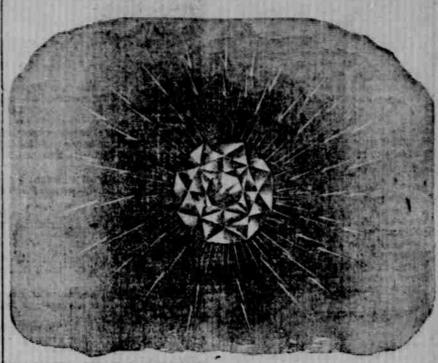
A Possible Reason.

Patient-Doctor, I can't sleep at night. I tumble and toss until morning.

Doctor-H'm, that's bad. Let me see your tongue. (After diagnosis.) Physically you are all right. Perhaps you worry over that bill you've owed me for the last two years.—Exchange.

Oysters at Dettenthaler's. They are eccived fresh daily.

# pretentious 7x11 office, established in 1879 on Canal street, The Stanton Printing company has steadily grown to be one of the solid firms of Grand Rapids and one of the best equipped job printing plants in Michigan. It now occupies at No. 2 Peari street two whole floors 30x120 feet, in which is combined the best printing machinery obtainable. The job room as well as pross room is well lighted, convenient, and admirable states (or an interest of the Chicago of the Ch



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That cough, slight fever and weakness, shortness of breath, pale istion of heart. Buy means sure and quick consumption. Caterin, deafness, tueumatum, nerr.

sortment of carefully selected novelties is then fullest. It is then that the rarest and ibest articles are to be found.

Selections made at an early date will be held as advised and promptly delivered at the spefied time.

Now is the Winter of our Discontent Made glorious by the thought that we can get the very and so the streng process. If you are nervous, restiess, irritable, aleepless or wake after herried or amountings, with a duil headache, had taste in the mention, as metting discharges, and so about your employment without him, energy or amtition, desire to be alone, gloomy forebodings, a disposition to worry and fret about trouble at and that herry comes, enrils of feeling that herry comes, with tired limbs, numbered, with tired limbs, numbered that means are advancing to that means serious discussed and meanity and death.

If you have a great sense of weakness and weatness, with tired limbs, numbered that means serious discussed and meanity and death.

If you have a great sense of weakness and weatness, with tired limbs, numbered that means serious discussed and that herry comes, and for all properties.

If you have a great sense of weakness and weatness, from the consumption.

If you have a great sense of weakness and weatness, from the consumption.

If your head aches, feel numb and ired, with strange sensations, how ny memory, and you think with difficulty or you are sleepless at night, with drowniness and duliness during the day, the nerve and brain fatigue may soon run into losanity or death.

If you have any of these feelings do not neglect them, or they will ending paralysis, insanity, prostration of death.

As you value your life do not neg.

paralysis, insanity, prostration of death.

As you value your life do not neglicat these warmings. Time and experience has shown, and hundreds of starting and marvelous curse have proved, that these diseases are perfectly and completely cursed by DR. 8. CLAY TODD, 14 N. Divasion street, rooms 1, 5 and 4, Grand Rapida, Mich. Under the use of DR. 8. CLAY TODD'S remarkable remedies all those symptoms yield as if by mugic, and attemptins of nerves, vigor of brain, vitality of blood and health of body are soon restored.

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Hels in his office from 9 is the morning until 7 in the evening every day but

andays. A friendly talk will